



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

ROTTERDAM DECLARATION

OF THE

OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

AND

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

DURING THE TWELFTH ANNUAL SESSION

ROTTERDAM, 5 TO 9 JULY 2003

PREAMBLE

We, Parliamentarians of the OSCE participating States, have met in annual session in Rotterdam on 5-9 July 2003 as the Parliamentary dimension of the OSCE to assess developments and challenges relating to security and co-operation in Europe, in particular the role of the OSCE in the new architecture of Europe, and we offer the following views to the OSCE Ministers.

We wish every success to the next OSCE Ministerial Conference in Maastricht in December and bring to its attention the following declaration and recommendations.

THE ROLE OF THE OSCE IN THE NEW ARCHITECTURE OF EUROPE

CHAPTER I

POLITICAL AFFAIRS AND SECURITY

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

1. Reaffirming the positive role of the OSCE in the new security architecture of Europe,
2. Noting the importance of further developing and reforming the OSCE's field activity,
3. Pointing to the pivotal role of the OSCE, as a regional security organization under Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter, in safeguarding and upholding universal principles of international law enshrined in the Charter,
4. Recalling that long-standing international problems in the OSCE area constitute a permanent threat to security and stability in the OSCE region and, by extension, to international peace and security,
5. Welcoming in this respect the commitment of the OSCE, reaffirmed in the Porto Ministerial Declaration, to intensify efforts to resolve persistent conflicts in the OSCE area that threaten observance of the OSCE principles and have an impact on peace and stability,

6. Reiterating calls in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Paris (2001) and Berlin (2002) Declarations for increased inter-institutional co-operation with the UN, EU, NATO, CE and CIS, based on the Platform for Co-operative Security,
7. Reaffirming the importance of close inter-institutional co-operation at both headquarters and field level,
8. Noting that the real strength of the OSCE lies in its capacity to respond to security threats and challenges and its strong field presence,
9. Stressing the real strength of the OSCE also as a forum to encourage governments to take actions necessary to implement the OSCE commitments freely undertaken from the Helsinki Final Act to the present,
10. Reaffirming the constructive and positive role played by OSCE Missions in helping their host states fulfil their OSCE commitments,
11. Keeping in mind that efficiency in achieving objectives should be the primary consideration for all organizations when undertaking projects,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

12. Stresses the importance of co-ordination between international organizations and of avoiding wasteful duplication by focusing attention on those areas in which each organization has comparative advantages;
13. Emphasizes that the OSCE, with its comprehensive security approach, has particular competence to support nation-building and to empower populations to participate actively in the democratization process;
14. Welcomes the increasing co-operation between the major security organizations in the OSCE area on the basis of the Platform for Co-operative Security;
15. Encourages the strengthening of transatlantic co-operation;
16. Welcomes the proposed opening of an OSCE Liaison Office in Brussels to improve co-ordination with international organizations;
17. Recognizes that the security architecture of Europe is constantly undergoing development; emphasizes the need for flexibility in the division of labour between international organizations, and specifically the need to demonstrate a willingness to cede projects to other, more suitable, organizations; and believes that, at the same time, project funds of other organizations could, where appropriate, be used by the OSCE's strong field missions;
18. Declares itself in favour of developing relations and co-operation of the OSCE with the Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-operation and other neighbouring countries, with a view to promoting OSCE values, achievements and methods;

19. Calls upon the OSCE to stand firm by its fundamental principles and norms, set out in the Helsinki Final Act and subsequent documents, as the guiding principles of its overall contribution towards shaping the new European security architecture;
20. Emphasizes the importance of universal and equal application of OSCE principles and commitments;
21. Calls upon OSCE institutions to strive for a greater geographical balance in their work;
22. Encourages continued focus by the OSCE on issues of common interest to all participating States, and applauds the Netherlands OSCE Chairmanship's focus on trafficking;
23. Notes the opportunities for the OSCE to address the common interest all participating States have in preventing the spread of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, and to prohibit the illicit sales of conventional weapons, including small arms and light weapons, in violation of United Nations resolutions, in particular by encouraging and vigorously reviewing compliance with the decisions on non-proliferation and arms transfers taken by the OSCE Ministerial Councils in Prague in 1992 and Porto in 2002 and at the Budapest Summit in 1994;
24. Urges all OSCE participating States to reconsider calls for zero real budget growth in the Organization;
25. Calls upon the OSCE to ensure a transparent and balanced budget;
26. Stresses that providing OSCE Field Missions with adequate funding and high-quality staff is necessary for upholding the credibility of the Organization;
27. Welcomes the current efforts of the OSCE to give the field missions greater budget responsibility and budgetary independence;
28. Highly recommends that the OSCE Permanent Council be requested to consult the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly prior to making a decision to terminate any OSCE field office and that, in this connection, the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly be afforded sufficient time for him to despatch a delegation of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to the country concerned to assess the situation and report back to the President;
29. Reiterates appeals in the OSCE PA Bucharest Declaration (2000) for the OSCE to reduce reliance on seconded personnel;
30. Expresses concern at the geographical imbalance which results from the secondment system, in that it relies on the ability of individual participating States to bear the costs for international staff members;

31. Welcomes the domestic capacity-building which results from international staff positions being assumed by local officials;
32. Suggests that the OSCE focus its work in South-Eastern Europe on the areas of governance and capacity-building;
33. Welcomes the increasing focus by the OSCE on policing matters, and applauds the establishment of the Strategic Police Matters Unit as a useful co-ordinating body;
34. Urges that, in line with any future requirements, appropriate capacities in the area of border management/border security be built up at the OSCE Secretariat through the creation of a corresponding work unit.

CHAPTER II

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT

35. Noting that, as it enters the twenty-first century, Western Europe is achieving integration and the creation of a space conducive to the constructive interaction of nation States in pursuit of common objectives and interests,
36. Greatly valuing the efforts of States to achieve further integration into European and Euro-Atlantic structures and to strengthen security, stability and democracy,
37. Recognizing that the primary responsibility for political and economic progress lies with the authorities and inhabitants of the regions, welcoming in that connection the improvement of good neighbourly relations and the deepening of regional co-operation, and emphasizing the need for further intensification of efforts to ensure that progress becomes irreversible and continues for the purpose of achieving common goals through the observance of mutual commitments and shared values,
38. Being fully aware that an opportunity is being created for a great single market offering the possibility of scientific and technical co-operation and the free movement of goods, capital, services and persons, all of which is becoming an additional source of growth and greater economic effectiveness, is being created,
39. Noting that the economic and currency union on the basis of which the euro was introduced as a new common currency as from January 1999 marks a qualitatively new frontier in the process of further integration,
40. Emphasizing that Western Europe has firmly taken its place in the world economy as a major integration centre interacting with the world economy and exerting a considerable effect on the conditions of international trade,
41. Stressing that the further enhancement of the Economic and Environmental Dimension of the OSCE, as an integral part of its comprehensive security approach, constitutes an essential prerequisite for the OSCE's substantial contribution to the new European Security Architecture,
42. Highlighting the substantial role of the OSCE in further promoting the regional and subregional co-operation framework to address economic and environmental threats to security in the OSCE region, and highlighting the significant input of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Subregional Economic Co-operation Conferences to this end,

43. Emphasizing that within the OSCE several subregional organizations of States have been formed and are in operation, within which a single spatial approach to regional development, the principles of sustainable development and environmental security is being formulated,
44. Noting the achievements of integration, which has promoted the growth of the political authority and influence of Western Europe in the world, particularly in Central and Eastern Europe, a development that has led to the desire of some 15 additional European countries to join the European Union and NATO as it expands to the East,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

45. Emphasizes the rise both in Eastern and in Western Europe of new risks and challenges, both external and internal, for which prompt and effective solutions will have to be found in the future;
46. Notes that a major challenge is that of globalization, which is difficult to define and is at the initial stage of its development, many of its manifestations being nevertheless already clear and making it necessary to restructure the human habitat:
- Revolutionary achievements in electronics and related areas as the basis for the creation of a modern worldwide information space;
 - The very rapid development of the means of communication and transport to permit the free movement of persons throughout the world and the delivery of goods and services;
 - The sharp acceleration in the internationalization of production in branches engaged in the manufacture of high-technology goods;
 - The need to establish and develop a worldwide money market and capital market, without which the contemporary internationalization of production is simply unthinkable;
47. Calls upon the OSCE to make full use of its role as a forum for political dialogue among major international economic institutions towards substantially assisting developing countries in their efforts to achieve sustainable development and meet the challenges of globalization;
48. Calls on all OSCE participating States to implement their commitments under the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris for a New Europe, the 1990 Document of the Bonn Conference on Economic Co-operation in Europe, and subsequent documents of the OSCE, to strengthen democratic institutions and the rule of law, to secure fundamental human rights and to promote sustainable economic development throughout the OSCE region;

49. Requests the OSCE, within an area of prosperity and good-neighbourliness, to establish a new progressive, differentiated and conditional form of association for those countries which are part of the Greater Europe, so that the integration process does not create new dividing lines in Europe, further increase the differences in economic development and present those countries with additional problems;
50. Emphasizes that harmonization of integration processes in the OSCE region requires the integration of the countries carrying out reforms into the world and European economic systems on an equal and mutually beneficial basis, and the OSCE urges participating States to assist these processes in every possible way taking into account the economic and political interests of all OSCE participants and avoiding damage to the security and stability of the whole region, which is under the responsibility of the Organization;
51. Encourages parliamentarians of the OSCE participating States to work out a model of reform-oriented sustainable development;
52. Urges OSCE participating States to create the necessary legal conditions to allow a sustainable development of market economies and to facilitate investments, as preconditions for stability in the OSCE area;
53. Encourages the European Union, within the current process of enlargement, to adopt a political strategy of partnership with its new neighbours to the East and accordingly to ensure that it has the appropriate and adequate means to reorganize the production potential of the Member States, to benefit from the international division of labour and to make fair use of the available skilled workforce;
54. Welcomes the efforts of the European Union to avoid harming the economic interests of those countries which do not become members of the European Union;
55. Calls on the participating States to develop effective, co-ordinated strategies, particularly through regional organizations like SECI, the Southeast European Co-operative Initiative, to combat corruption and organized crime, money laundering, terrorist financing and trafficking in human beings, drugs and arms;
56. Recognizes that economic and environmental factors can threaten security and stability, and appeals to participating States and international organizations to step up their efforts to ensure security, prevent and reduce environmental pollution and ensure control on the basis of full respect for international law;
57. Urges the OSCE participating States to render all-round assistance to development of regional co-operation in such fora as the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Co-operation, the Barents Euro-Arctic Council, the Council of the Baltic Sea States, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Euro-Asian Economic Community, the Central European Initiative and the Southeast European Co-operative Initiative, to encourage development of co-operation in the field of trade and industries, energy, transportation, communication, science and engineering, agriculture, to support small

and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), ecology, tourism, etc., and to provide financial assistance in the realization of concrete regional projects;

58. Emphasizes the need to support efforts aimed at assisting development of all-European co-operation on an equal and mutually beneficial basis in various areas and the eventual formation of a single area of security and economic co-operation in the OSCE region and the construction of the new architecture of Europe without dividing lines;
59. Calls upon the OSCE as a whole to join the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in common efforts to promote the sustainable development of SMEs;
60. Urges the participating States to promote the growth of entrepreneurship and SMEs, particularly those owned and operated by women and minorities, by establishing non-burdensome licensing and taxation regimes, developing programmes that assist SMEs in gaining access to finance, and supporting education and training programmes, business incubators and the development of local, national and regional business associations, following the recommendations of the Berne Final Declaration 2003 on the promotion of SMEs.

CHAPTER III

DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS

61. Recognizing that the enlargement of the EU and NATO, and also the Council of Europe, brings new challenges to all major European and Euro-Atlantic institutions, including the OSCE,
62. Believing that the enlargement of the EU, NATO and the Council of Europe, sharing the common values of democracy, human rights and the rule of law, will strengthen the adherence to the participating States' human dimension commitments,
63. Underlining the importance of keeping the OSCE focused on its human dimension,
64. Recalling that gross violations by OSCE participating States of the human rights of citizens of other participating States constitute a permanent threat to international peace and security,
65. Highlighting the need for the OSCE to maintain and further increase its political weight on the international scene by raising a stronger voice against such violations,
66. Recognizing that there are differences between countries and regions in the OSCE, with respect to the implementation of their human dimension commitments,
67. Stressing the need for a more dynamic approach to be adopted by the OSCE regarding the promotion of its principles and norms set out in the Helsinki Final Act and subsequent documents, as an effective means towards reducing these differences,
68. Noting that the creation of a "European area of freedom, security and justice" on the basis of the Schengen Agreement stipulating the procedures for the crossing of external borders, the free movement of citizens, immigration, monitoring and the fight against crime and terrorism should be regarded as one of the major achievements of the integration processes under way in Central and Eastern Europe,
69. Noting that the recipient countries have benefited from migration through, *inter alia*, an enhanced workforce and cultural diversity, and that migration can continue to be a positive factor in the future,
70. Being concerned, however, that certain problems, such as xenophobia and discrimination, have emerged in connection with migration and that these problems need to be given greater attention by the OSCE,
71. Noting that within the 55 participating States that constitute the OSCE, millions of individuals have fled their place of residence for a separate secure location within the same country, thereby becoming internally displaced, and that each OSCE

participating State bears the primary responsibility to provide protection and humanitarian assistance to internally displaced persons in its territory without discrimination,

72. Welcoming the increased co-ordination and co-operation, also at the parliamentary level, of the main European and Euro-Atlantic institutions in matters concerning consolidation of democracy, respect for human rights, and strengthening the rule of law,
73. Considering that trafficking in human beings constitutes a serious and particularly repulsive form of crime, resulting in a modern form of slavery in the OSCE region,
74. Recalling the “Resolution on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, especially Women and Children”, adopted in Berlin in 2002 and the “Resolution on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings”, adopted in Paris in 2001, in addition to other previous statements of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly on this appalling form of international criminality,
75. Recalling that trafficking is a form of organized and international criminality which, in response to the intensification of the fight against it, is seeking new forms and sources of financial support, and which must be combated in international co-operation embracing countries of origin, transit and destination,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

76. Suggests that the OSCE adopt a more balanced regional approach when promoting the implementation of the participating States’ human dimension commitments, taking into account the differences of each country and region but not neglecting any of them;
77. Calls upon OSCE participating States to honour their commitments deriving from their accession to the international Conventions and other legal instruments on Human Rights;
78. Stresses the need for the OSCE to enhance oversight of participating States observance of their commitments pertaining to the human dimension and to make full use of its commitments implementation review mechanism to this end;
79. Recommends that the OSCE initiates missions and election monitoring of an appropriate nature in established democracies that face new challenges such as the integration of new minorities and the fight against trafficking of human beings;
80. Appeals to the EU and NATO to maintain high requirements with respect to democracy, human rights and the rule of law as far as both their member States and new members are concerned;
81. Recommends that the OSCE develops further its co-ordination, co-operation and division of labour with the major European and Euro-Atlantic institutions, such and

the EU, NATO and the Council of Europe, when promoting the implementation of the participating States human dimension commitments;

82. Considers that the experiences of the “Parliamentary Troikas” on a number of issues are positive, and therefore this form of parliamentary co-operation should be developed further on an ad hoc basis;
83. Encourages the OSCE to strengthen its work in combating xenophobia and discrimination against minorities in established democracies and in protecting their new minorities resulting from migration;
84. Suggests that the mandate and resources of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities be modified and strengthened to deal with the protection of the new minorities in established democracies in the OSCE area, and to help them integrate into the societies of their new homelands while recognizing their right to maintain their own cultural heritage;
85. Urges OSCE participating States to take the necessary steps to prevent and avoid conditions that might lead to internal displacement and, where displacement exists, to create and establish lasting solutions, allowing internally displaced persons to return freely, in safety and dignity, to their homes or places of habitual residence and to repossess their property, or to resettle and integrate voluntarily elsewhere in their country;
86. Declares that OSCE participating States should not forcibly return internally displaced persons against their will or create situations where return is the only option, especially if their life, safety, liberty and/or health would be at risk;
87. Encourages the parliaments of all participating States to take concrete steps to ensure that internally displaced persons in their country have the right to return home and repossess their property or, until that time, that they are given proper and safe housing and fully enjoy their rights;
88. Urges the creation of additional standard-setting language concerning internally displaced persons at the OSCE Ministerial meeting to be held in December 2003 through, *inter alia*, the endorsement of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement or the adoption of key aspects of those Guiding Principles as OSCE commitments;
89. Recommends that the OSCE offer itself to the participating States as the principal international organization in the co-operation and co-ordination of efforts to combat trafficking in human beings and in the development of police capacity and institution-building;
90. Appeals to all participating States to co-operate effectively in order to combat trafficking in human beings in countries of origin, transit and destination;

91. Calls for the participating States, their parliamentarians in particular, to ensure that their national legislation provides means and tools for combating trafficking, protecting its victims and co-operating on international level;
92. Suggests that the OSCE effectively organize its work on combating trafficking in human beings by appointing a Special Representative on Trafficking in Human Beings, by strengthening the resources of the Senior Police Adviser and by establishing mechanisms to co-ordinate closely with the participating States and all OSCE institutions, bodies and officials involved in combating trafficking in human beings, including the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the High Commission for National Minorities, ODIHR and the Senior Police Adviser;
93. Recommends that the Parliamentary Assembly continue to give high priority to its efforts to combat trafficking in human beings.

RESOLUTION ON WELCOMING AFGHANISTAN AS A NEW PARTNER FOR CO-OPERATION

1. Acknowledging that in February 2003 the Interim Foreign Minister of Afghanistan indicated Afghanistan's intention to share the principles, values, and goals of the OSCE,
2. Recalling that in April 2003, at the 445th meeting of the Permanent Council, Afghanistan was granted the status of Partner for Co-operation,
3. Affirming that the OSCE participating States and the Partners for Co-operation welcome Afghanistan as a new Partner for Co-operation,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

4. Urges all participating States and the OSCE Partners for Co-operation to strengthen co-operation with the new Government of Afghanistan on issues of mutual concern, to assist Afghanistan in meeting the OSCE standards and principles on democracy and security;
5. Pledges the assistance of the Parliamentary Assembly to Afghanistan as it seeks to establish a constitutional democracy based on the rule of law and respect for human rights.

RESOLUTION ON RENEWING THE OSCE PARTNERSHIP

1. Recalling the words of the Helsinki Final Act in which the participating States recognized that their common history, traditions and values could assist them in developing their relations, fully taking into account the individuality and diversity of their positions and views, and in their efforts to overcome distrust, increase confidence, solve the problems that separated them and co-operate in the interest of mankind,
2. Remembering also that the Final Act recognized the close link between peace and security in Europe and in the world as a whole, and the need for each of the participating States to make its contribution to the strengthening of world peace and security, and to the promotion of fundamental rights, economic and social progress, and well-being for all peoples,
3. Recalling that the Charter of Paris declared that the participation of both North American and European States is a fundamental characteristic of the OSCE, underlying its past achievements and essential to the future of the OSCE process, and that the challenges confronting the participating States can only be met by common action, co-operation and solidarity,
4. Welcoming the active involvement of the OSCE Mediterranean Partners and the Partners for Co-operation, especially the newest Partner, Afghanistan,
5. Acknowledging the great strides made by the participating States in improving human rights, developing democracy and the rule of law, and strengthening international peace and stability since the signing of the Final Act,
6. Recognizing that much remains to be done to promote fundamental human rights, strengthen democratic institutions, ensure peace and stability, confront global terrorism, prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and combat organized crime and corruption throughout the OSCE region,
7. Recognizing also that the participating States may disagree regarding matters affecting regional or global security as evidenced recently by the debate concerning the situation in Iraq,
8. Understanding that the strength of the OSCE is its diversity, and its ability to work together to confront threats to human rights, democracy, and peace and stability in the OSCE region,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

9. Reaffirms its commitment to work with the OSCE and its institutions to promote human rights, economic prosperity, democracy and the rule of law as well as to combat terrorism, corruption and organized crime through its Ad Hoc Committees, election monitoring, inter-parliamentary dialogue and mission support;
10. Urges the participating States of the OSCE, in the spirit of the Final Act and the Charter of Paris, to redouble their efforts to address critical challenges to fundamental human rights and security throughout the OSCE region, and to work together to ensure peace, prosperity and stability for the global community.

RESOLUTION ON THE PARLIAMENTARY FOLLOW-UP OF OSCE ACTIVITIES AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

1. Recalling the Charter of Paris 1990 which "calls for a greater parliamentary involvement in the CSCE ... involving members of parliaments from all participating states",
2. Recalling the OSCE Istanbul Charter from 1999 which welcomed its increasing role, particularly in the field of democratic development and election monitoring, and called for the Parliamentary Assembly to develop its activities further as a key component in the efforts of the OSCE to promote democracy, prosperity and increased confidence within and between participating states,
3. Referring to the Resolution on Strengthening Transparency and Accountability in the OSCE adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly at its 10th Session in Paris in July 2001, and the Resolution on Enhancing the Parliamentary Dimension of the OSCE adopted at the Standing Committee in Sintra, Portugal in November 2001,
4. Referring to the work done by the Ad hoc Working Group on Transparency and Accountability of the Parliamentary Assembly for the promotion of communication and relations between the OSCE institutions, in particular the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the Ministerial Council,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

5. Recommends the nomination of OSCE Parliamentary Assembly national delegations for the entire legislature as well as the practice of holding regular national Parliamentary Assembly delegation meetings for the benefit of continuity in OSCE activities at the national level;
6. Encourages national parliaments to introduce practices whereby annual written reports on the activities of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly by national delegations are regularly debated in an appropriate manner in national parliaments;
7. Encourages national OSCE Parliamentary Assembly delegations to maintain contacts and co-ordinate debates related to the security structure of Europe in their parliaments, in co-operation with other relevant parliamentary committees (such as the Foreign Affairs Committee or Defence Committee) as well as other inter-parliamentary national delegations;
8. Recommends the organization of broad-based discussions and exchanges of views on the activities of the OSCE with representatives from parliaments, governments as well as non-governmental organizations and academic institutions;

9. Encourages national OSCE Parliamentary Assembly delegations to maintain regular contacts with the competent authorities of their national governments involved in OSCE activities, in particular the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
10. Encourages national parliaments to investigate possibilities of being heard and informed by national governments of OSCE activities in particular prior to major OSCE intergovernmental ministerial meetings and Summits;
11. Calls upon governments of participating States to include parliamentarians in their national delegations to meetings of the OSCE ministerial council and OSCE summits;
12. Recommends consideration of the introduction of annual national reports on the activities of the OSCE by the national Governments to national parliaments;
13. Recommends that national parliaments take active part in OSCE election observation operations and consider new forms of activities of democracy education in the context of elections observation for instance by inviting observers from newly democratized OSCE countries to follow elections in other OSCE countries.

RESOLUTION ON BELARUS

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

1. Welcomes the reopening of the OSCE Office in Minsk on 1 January 2003 and the co-operation demonstrated thus far by the Belarusian Government with the Office;
2. Pledges to support the work of the Office in the future on the basis of its Mandate and the associated Memoranda, and urges the Belarusian Government to avoid creating obstacles that hinder the Office's work;
3. Welcomes the stated will of the Belarusian Government to work actively and co-operatively within the framework of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly;
4. States the wish to engage in intensive and critical dialogue with the National Assembly and the Belarusian Government;
5. Recalls that none of the four criteria that are the basis of the work of the Working Group, and none of the requirements made of the Belarusian Government – satisfactory access of all political parties to the mass media, establishment of meaningful functions and powers for the Parliament, non-discrimination against political opposition and introduction of confidence-building measures, adoption of a democratic electoral code and transparency of the election process – have thus far been met;
6. Welcomes the New Neighbours Initiative of the EU, which provides Belarus with the opportunity for integration and protection from any negative consequences of EU expansion;
7. Urges the Belarusian Government to take advantage of this opportunity;
8. Urges the Belarusian National Assembly to reform and ratify the electoral code to meet OSCE standards;
9. Expresses regret that important legal reforms have thus far not been enacted, including a new electoral code, media legislation, and laws regarding the powers of the parliament;
10. Urges the Belarusian Government to submit to the National Assembly the necessary and promised legislation;
11. Urges the Belarusian Government to reform the electoral code to make free, fair, and transparent elections possible. This requires, among other things:

- changes in the formation of the electoral commission on all levels (local, regional, national);
 - limiting the possibility of early voting and mobile voting, and the transparent oversight of these practices;
 - access of national and international observers to the entire election process;
12. Urges the OSCE to observe the 2004 elections to the National Assembly;
 13. Clarifies that the holding of further elections or referenda conducted on the basis of the present electoral legislation, which do not meet OSCE standards, will be a step backwards in the improvement of relations between Belarus and the OSCE;
 14. Regrets that the Belarusian National Assembly does not enjoy full parliamentary rights and urges the National Assembly and Belarusian Government to implement legislative changes to ensure those rights;
 15. Urges the ratification of legislation on registration and registration practices which meets OSCE standards;
 16. Condemns the repression of civil society organizations, in particular Civil Initiatives and Ratusha, which stems from the same inadequate legislation and practices;
 17. Welcomes the presence of a group of democratically-oriented, independent representatives (“Respublika”) in the National Assembly, who work for democratic legislation;
 18. Condemns every attempt at repression, discrimination and politically-motivated criminal charges against these and other parliamentarians;
 19. Urges all representatives of the Belarusian National Assembly to protect their colleagues who attempt to exercise their legitimate parliamentary and political rights;
 20. Urges the Belarusian Government to look into the cases of people murdered or disappeared for potentially politically-motivated reasons, and to speed up the investigations in such cases;
 21. Criticizes the fact that the social, political, and humanitarian situation in Belarus has worsened considerably;
 22. Supports in this context Resolution 2003/14 of the United Nations Human Rights Commission of 17 April 2003;
 23. Urges an end to restrictions against trade unions, and the enforcement of rights to form labour associations according to the standards of the International Labour Organization;

24. Condemns the politically-motivated repression of opposition representatives who have endured the loss of employment and in some cases politically-motivated criminal proceedings;
25. Urges the appointment of an Ombudsman for human rights;
26. Urges the Belarusian Government, as promised, to draft media legislation to be forwarded to the OSCE and the Council of Europe for assessment to be submitted to the Belarusian National Assembly;
27. Urges the Belarusian National Assembly to enact and ratify legislative changes according to OSCE criteria and following the recommendations of the OSCE and Council of Europe;
28. Condemns the continuing repression of non state-owned, independent media and the persecution of independent journalists, specifically the ban and censorship of newspapers such as Narodnaya Volya, Navinki and Vecherny Stolin, especially worrisome in this regard being the three-month suspension of the publication Belaruskaya Delovaya Gazeta. In this regard, the practice of registration of print media and the repressive legislation and legislative practice is also condemned;
29. Urges fair and equal treatment of political opposition parties and their free access to the state media;
30. Declares support for all civic and democratic forces in Belarus.

RESOLUTION ON OSCE PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

1. Recalling the Second Helsinki Conference held in 1992, which firmly re-established the centrality of non-coercive, co-operative approaches to conflict management,
2. Acknowledging that the OSCE is a consensual, diplomatic forum and all of its conflict prevention and crisis management tools adhere to these fundamental principles,
3. Recognizing that its consent-based, non-coercive character is the greatest strength of the OSCE, by giving great moral authority to any peacekeeping operation, because it requires the co-operation of the parties to a dispute and reflects the wishes of all 55 member States,
4. Recalling that the decision N° 4 of the OSCE Ministerial Council of 7 December 2002, “recognizing the significant changes in peacekeeping doctrine and practices” since the CSCE Helsinki Summit of 1992, calls the Permanent Council “to conduct a review of peacekeeping, with a view towards assessing OSCE capacity to conduct peacekeeping operations and identifying options for potential OSCE involvement in peacekeeping”,
5. Reaffirming that in the wider European security architecture, the role of the OSCE can be more effective through various peacekeeping operations,
6. Noting that nowadays peacekeeping is directly related to maintaining peace and public order and facilitating dispute settlement, and in particular through early warning, conflict prevention, civilian crisis management, post-conflict peace building,
7. Noting that this new and comprehensive perspective of peacekeeping requires the involvement of professionals with many different skills and experiences, not only of military personnel,
8. Noting that several international organizations are engaged in different aspects of complex crisis management,
9. Acknowledging that OSCE has developed experience and know-how in such peacekeeping operations, throughout the last decade, deploying observers, monitoring and verification missions in the field and in crisis areas,
10. Recognizing that OSCE has thus carved out a proper space and role in unarmed peacekeeping operations, qualitatively different from those offered by military organizations,
11. Recognizing that the OSCE can complement other peacekeeping operations set up by different international organizations,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

12. Recommends the fostering of the role of the OSCE in unarmed peacekeeping operations;
13. Calls upon all OSCE participating States to contribute to the OSCE peacekeeping role, by preparing lists of experienced personnel that it can draw on and deploy at short notice;
14. Encourages OSCE in the efforts undertaken for redefining its role in peacekeeping, and calls on it to reinforce its organizational structure for the selection of personnel, planning and rapid deployment of peacekeeping missions.

RESOLUTION ON THE OSCE MEDITERRANEAN DIMENSION

1. Noting that the OSCE maintains special relations with six Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco, and Tunisia,
2. Recalling that a number of OSCE participating States border the Mediterranean, and that the countries of the Mediterranean region share historical, cultural, economic, and political ties with the OSCE region, which dictates a Mediterranean dimension to security in the OSCE region,
3. Recalling that the Helsinki Final Act states that "security in Europe is to be considered in the broader context of world security and is closely linked with security in the Mediterranean as a whole, and that accordingly the process of improving security should not be confined to Europe but should extend to other parts of the world, and in particular to the Mediterranean area,"
4. Stressing the significant role the OSCE can play in the further promotion of subregional dialogue and co-operation, as essential prerequisites towards meeting the goals of the Barcelona Process,
5. Pointing to the need for the OSCE to enhance its role in the Mediterranean region by further promoting its Mediterranean dimension to achieve closer co-operation with Mediterranean Partners and calling for the enrichment of its existing mechanisms to this end,
6. Highlighting the importance of increased attention attributed to the Mediterranean region at the level of the OSCE PA, as reflected in the appointment of the President's Special Representative for the Mediterranean, as well as in the institution of an OSCE Mediterranean Parliamentary Forum mechanism to be inaugurated in Rome this autumn, as a significant input of the Parliamentary Assembly towards the promotion of the OSCE Mediterranean dimension,
7. Underlining that both OSCE participating States and Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation should aim at promoting security and co-operation in the region through a comprehensive process of enhanced political dialogue, economic co-operation and intercultural exchanges, as well as through the strengthening of democratic institutions and respect for human rights and the rule of law,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

8. Pledges to contribute energetically to the efforts devoted by the international community to make the Mediterranean Sea a sea of peace and security;
9. Calls upon the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation to adhere to the guiding principles contained in the Helsinki Final Act;

10. Encourages the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation to use the framework and mechanisms of the OSCE, including those devoted to conflict prevention and post-conflict rehabilitation, as a model for enhancing security, promoting co-operation, and protecting human rights in the region;
11. Urges all OSCE participating States to assist the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation in their efforts to overcome the legacy of the past, strengthen peace and understanding, and develop relations based on mutual respect and confidence, increasing and developing respect for human rights and the rule of law, and economic co-operation.

RESOLUTION ON COMBATING TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

1. Underscoring the importance of combating corruption, for the facilitation of economic and political growth and stability, and for the improvement in and promotion of good governance,
2. Noting the deleterious effects of corruption on economic, political and social development of a country,
3. Recalling that the OSCE Ministerial Council Decision of December 2002 recognized the need to fight corruption which facilitates the operation of organized criminal networks,
4. Recognizing the links between corruption, organized crime, international criminal networks and trafficking in human beings,
5. Concerned that law enforcement efforts against human trafficking are undermined by official indifference and corruption,
6. Recalling that the 1991 Moscow Document, the 1999 Charter for European Security, and the OSCE Ministerial Council Decisions of November 2000, December 2001, and December 2002 commit OSCE participating States to seek to end all forms of trafficking in human beings,
7. Noting that the OSCE Ministerial Council Decision of December 2002 expresses particular concern “about the increase in trafficking in minors and, recognizing the special needs of children, supports more research and exchange of information on trafficking in children and, with due regard to the best interest of the child as the primary consideration in all actions concerning children, calls for the elaboration of special measures to protect trafficked minors from further exploitation, mindful of their psychological and physical well-being”,
8. Recognizing that the International Labour Organization estimates that 1.2 million children below the age of 18 are victims of trafficking,
9. Recalling that the Parliamentary Assembly’s Berlin Declaration demanded that special attention be focused on trafficked children and their specific rights and needs,
10. Recalling that the Parliamentary Assembly, in its Berlin Declaration, expressed concern about the existence and prevalence of sex tourism aimed, in particular, at the sexual exploitation of children, and called on OSCE participating States to ensure that their laws contain the requisite jurisdiction to prosecute their nationals who travel abroad for the purpose of engaging in sexual acts with children,

11. Noting with grave concern that the Internet has facilitated the promotion of sex tourism through easily accessible websites advertising such activities, thus, cloaking them in apparent legitimacy,
12. Expressing concern that the Internet and other modern technologies are being used to facilitate the production, collection and distribution of pornographic images of children,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

13. Urges participating States to redouble their efforts to combat corruption in all areas of society and all levels of government, giving particular regard to instances of corruption that lead to violations of human rights, including trafficking in persons;
14. Urges participating States to take all necessary measures to alert the general public to the dangers of false and illusory promises, particularly offers of lucrative and alluring employment overseas, made by the trafficking networks;
15. Urges participating States to work with civil society in advancing and supporting ideas of accountability and transparency in government, and the promotion of good governance practices;
16. Encourages participating States to provide training to the tourist industry and to tourism educators on child sex tourism and on children's rights and protection;
17. Calls upon OSCE participating States to investigate allegations that police, or other law enforcement authorities, have been complicit in the crime of trafficking in persons and to prosecute any and all law enforcement authorities found to be complicit in such crimes or in efforts to undermine the investigation of such crimes;
18. Urges all participating States to adopt and implement legislation to prohibit and establish severe criminal penalties for the production, distribution or use of material that visually depicts sexual conduct by children below the age of 18;
19. Encourages participating States to consider practical measures that can be undertaken to combat the use of the Internet for child pornography, such as the creation of "child pornography hotlines" to allow Internet users the possibility of anonymously providing information on offences relating to child pornography to appropriate law enforcement units;
20. Urges that participating States consider establishing within appropriate law enforcement entities specialized task forces on Internet crimes against children to investigate crimes against children committed through the use of the Internet;
21. Urges all OSCE participating States to sign and ratify International Labour Organization Convention 182, calling for immediate action to ban the worst forms of child labour, including child prostitution and child pornography;

22. Calls upon all participating States to sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography;
23. Urges all OSCE participating States to sign and ratify the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

RESOLUTION ON THE ROLE OF THE OSCE TOWARDS THE GREATER EUROPE

1. Recalling that in Europe, the trend towards closer integration and co-operation that has developed gradually in intra-European relations since the end of the Cold War is now becoming consolidated and more clearly defined,
2. Recalling that examples of such integration and co-operation include the enlargement of the European Union and NATO to incorporate the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, and co-operation between these two organizations and Russia, Ukraine and the other members of the CIS,
3. Recalling that the States which are acceding to the European Union and to NATO have demonstrated an extraordinary capacity to modernize their civil, economic and military structures, and to mobilize public opinion in support of the predetermined objectives,
4. Recalling that the European area of integration is being expanded parallel to the increase in a series of subregional co-operation experiences between the Member States of the OSCE area, such as the Visegrad Group, the Black Sea Economic Co-operation, the Central European Initiative, the Southeast European Co-operative Initiative, and the Council of the Baltic Sea States,
5. Recognizing that although these European integration and co-operation experiences are proceeding at different levels, all are based on common principles governing relations between the participating States,
6. Recognizing that in political terms, these common principles are respect for democracy, the rule of law and human rights, and they are helping to consolidate instruments designed to guarantee international security,
7. Recognizing that in economic terms, the extension of the market economy, the adoption of a liberal approach to trade between States based on the freedom of international trade and the extension of economic integration are strengthening political integration and driving economic development and prosperity,
8. Acknowledging the significance of the adoption by the European Union of a Common Foreign and Security Policy, which will empower it to play its due role on the international political scene,
9. Considering that the creation of international co-operation mechanisms and the principles underlying them are now a commonly shared heritage, bringing all the European States together in a single process, irrespective of the different levels of integration they have achieved,

10. Considering that these integration processes require an overall framework to facilitate and direct them, maintaining the conditions for co-operation,
11. Considering that this broader and more general framework for participation is provided by the OSCE, which already encompasses all the existing regional and subregional integration processes and provides the participating States with a set of shared values that were enshrined in the 1975 Helsinki Final Act,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

12. Wishes the European Union to be an area that is receptive to the contribution of other European countries belonging to the OSCE area, the enlargement of the European Union having beneficial results in this respect;
13. Wishes the construction of Europe to acquire greater depth in the larger and more inclusive ambit of the OSCE, in order to consolidate democracy, the protection of human rights and collective security, and the increasing integration of the national economies, continent-wide;
14. Wishes that this perspective will be specifically taken on board by the European Union as a permanent strategic objective, looking ahead to the creation of an increasingly more cohesive and integrated "Greater Europe".

RESOLUTION ON COMBATING ANTI-SEMITISM IN THE 21ST CENTURY

1. Recalling the *Resolution on Anti-Semitic Violence in the OSCE Region* unanimously adopted at the Assembly's 2002 Annual Session in Berlin, which encouraged parliamentarians to "vocally and unconditionally condemn manifestations of anti-Semitic violence in their respective countries and at all regional and international forums",
2. Reaffirming the 2002 Porto Ministerial Decision condemning "anti-Semitic incidents in the OSCE area, recognizing the role that the existence of anti-Semitism has played throughout history as a major threat to freedom",
3. Recalling the 2002 Porto decision No. 6 recognizing the responsibility of participating States for promoting tolerance and non-discrimination,
4. Noting ongoing efforts to create a parliamentary Coalition of the Willing, initiated by the German and American delegations to the Assembly, to gather like-minded parliamentarians willing to denounce anti-Semitism and related violence, be it on the domestic or international level,
5. Recalling the leadership shown by the OSCE in addressing the issue of anti-Semitism, and the fact that it was the first international organization to publicly condemn anti-Semitism through provisions of the 1990 Copenhagen Concluding Document,
6. Acknowledging that incidents of anti-Semitism occur throughout the 55-nation OSCE region and are not unique to any one country, which necessitates unwavering steadfastness by all participating States to erase this black mark on human history,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

7. Recognizes the danger of anti-Semitism to the societies of all OSCE States, as unchecked growth of this phenomenon and related violence will jeopardize peace, pluralism, human rights and democracy;
8. Condemns unequivocally anti-Semitism (including violence against Jews and Jewish cultural sites), racial and ethnic hatred, xenophobia, and discrimination, as well as persecution on religious grounds whenever it occurs;
9. Recommends that parliamentarians of OSCE participating States strongly and publicly condemn anti-Semitic acts when they occur;
10. Supports the promotion of special efforts to train law enforcement officers and military personnel to deal with diverse communities and respond to racism and hate crimes;

11. Urges all OSCE participating States to ensure effective law enforcement by local and national authorities against criminal acts stemming from anti-Semitism, xenophobia, or racial or ethnic hatred, whether directed at individuals, communities, or property, including thorough investigation and prosecution of such acts;
12. Encourages educational efforts throughout the OSCE region to counter anti-Semitic stereotypes and attitudes among younger people, to increase Holocaust awareness programs, and to identify necessary resources to accomplish these goals;
13. Calls on participating States to identify concrete action that may be possible within the OSCE to counter proliferation of neo-Nazi and other racist material over the Internet, while protecting and preserving the rights of freedom of expression;
14. Emphasizes the need to commence and complete the proper and just restitution or compensation of seized properties to the rightful owners, noting that many claimants are elderly survivors of the Holocaust;
15. Calls upon parliamentarians in OSCE participating States to play a leading role in combating anti-Semitism, thereby ensuring concrete actions are implemented at the national level;
16. Urges those participating States that have not already done so to join the Task Force for International Co-operation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, and to implement the provisions of the Declaration of the Stockholm International Forum on the Holocaust.

RESOLUTION ON MOLDOVA

1. Recalling the resolutions on Moldova adopted at the Annual Session in Bucharest in 2000, in Paris in 2001 and in Berlin in 2002,
2. Welcoming the fact that all parties concerned have approved the initiative of the President of the Republic of Moldova to draw up jointly with the Transdniestrian side a new State Constitution based on the principles of federalism,
3. Taking note of the recent Seminar on Federalism, organized by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, in close co-operation with the OSCE Mission to Moldova, where representatives of all parties concerned participated constructively in discussing a future solution,
4. Recognizing the recent progress in the removal of the Russian armaments and ammunition from Transdniestria in accordance with the decisions of the Istanbul Summit and the Porto Ministerial meeting,
5. Noting with concern that trafficking in drugs, arms and human beings remains a major cause for alarm in the region,
6. Reaffirming the role of the OSCE in promoting free and fair elections, in addition to Article 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which declares that: “Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, either directly or through freely chosen representatives”,
7. Understanding that a failure to find a solution to the problem concerning the status of the Transdniestrian region and effectively to combat organized crime seriously hampers economic and social progress in the entire country and its further integration into the European and Euro-Atlantic structures,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

8. Appeals to all parties concerned, in particular to the Parliament and Government of Moldova and the Supreme Soviet and Authorities in Transdniestria, to continue negotiating in good faith in order to find a solution to the problem of the status of Transdniestria as an integral part of a federal Moldova and in a manner that guarantees Moldova’s sovereignty and territorial integrity;
9. Encourages the Joint Constitutional Commission, composed of representatives of both parties and assisted by expert advisers from the OSCE, European Union and the Venice Commission, to continue their work in order to draft a new constitution within the period envisaged;

10. Recommends that the OSCE remain active in the ongoing negotiation process and ready to provide assistance and guarantees to any agreed solution that ensures Moldova's sovereignty and territorial integrity, including readiness to provide peace-keepers;
11. Urges the authorities in Tiraspol to continue co-operating with others concerned in order to complete the withdrawal of Russian armaments and ammunition by the end of 2003;
12. Asks the authorities in Chisinau and Tiraspol to work effectively, in co-operation with their neighbours and relevant international institutions, in order to combat any kind of organized criminality, in particular the trafficking in drugs, arms and human beings;
13. Suggests that the Parliament of Moldova and the Supreme Soviet of Transdniestria re-establish their contacts by holding regular meetings of appropriate committees;
14. Assures all parties concerned that the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly remains available, mainly through its Parliamentary Team on Moldova, to facilitate dialogue and to look for solutions to various problems in the country, in particular to the preparation of a new federal constitution.

RESOLUTION ON THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

1. Welcoming with great satisfaction the entry into force of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) as a milestone in the development of an effective international criminal justice system in which there are no safe havens for those who commit the worst international crimes. With the creation of the International Criminal Court, genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity shall no longer go unpunished,
2. Recognizing that by providing redress and reparations for the victims and survivors of these crimes, the ICC is of vital importance not only for accountability and lasting justice, but also for peace and security. In the present international situation, the Court is needed more than ever before. With the support of international key actors, the Court can play a role of deterrent, which may be crucial in the preservation of world peace,
3. Considering that democratic States must be the most ardent supporters of the Court, which represents the expression of their commitment to promote the universal values of human rights, international humanitarian law and the rule of law,
4. Considering that universal adherence to the Rome Statute is of crucial importance in order to enable the Court to become a truly efficient international instrument to prevent impunity and to ensure equal justice for all,
5. Emphasizing that to be effective the ICC will depend not only on widespread ratification of the Rome Statute, but also on states parties complying fully with their treaty obligations,
6. Welcoming the ICC as a defender of the rights of those, such as women and children, who have often had little recourse to justice, the Rome Statute being the first treaty to contain an extensive list of crimes of sexual violence,
7. Welcoming the explicit reference to trafficking in women and children,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

8. Calls on the OSCE participating States to make their ratifications meaningful through effective national implementing law that enables them to meet their principal obligations under the Rome Statute, namely co-operating with and assisting the ICC, which is vital to ensuring that the most serious crimes of concern to the international community no longer go unpunished;
9. Calls on the participating States to look beyond the Rome Statute when incorporating the ICC crimes into national law and to incorporate the most progressive definitions of all crimes under international law, whether they are found in the Rome Statute or

elsewhere, this applying particularly to the standard set out in the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which establishes eighteen as the minimum age for participation in armed conflict;

10. Urges the participating States to provide support and protection to victims and witnesses, particularly women and children, to grant special protection visas to enable threatened victims and witnesses with their families to resettle in a safe third country, and to establish a trust fund for victims and their families;
11. Calls on the participating States to work together for a universal accession to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

RESOLUTION ON THE PRISONERS DETAINED BY THE UNITED STATES AT THE GUANTANAMO BASE

1. Recalling the OSCE's fundamental principles based on the rule of law,
2. Recalling the repeated statements of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly opposition to the use of the death penalty,
3. Underlining the importance of the defence of democratic rights, not least confronted with terrorism and other undemocratic methods,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

4. Deplores the fate and the treatment of the persons, including minors, being held at Guantanamo by the United States as "unlawful combatants" and not as *either* "prisoners of war" in accordance with the Third Geneva Convention and with the right of such persons *or* as criminals with the rights pertaining to that status.

The Parliamentary Assembly urges the United States immediately to:

5. Present the prisoners before a "competent tribunal" to have their status determined;
6. Secure the prisoners' rights by letting them be represented by legal counsel of their own choice;
7. Secure the rights of the minors imprisoned according to international conventions and fundamental principles of law regarding the rights of children not to be incarcerated with adults and secure their right to education;
8. Refrain from the use of the death penalty.

The Parliamentary Assembly furthermore:

9. Urges the responsible authorities of all the States whose nationals are being unlawfully detained to do whatever possible to seek their extradition to their home country for prosecution of their criminal acts.